

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SEOUL 07547 121116Z

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 A-01 OPR-01 CPR-01 PRS-01 SSO-00

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FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6913

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP (FORD, GERALD R.)

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL VISIT: PUBLIC STATEMENTS

REF: STATE 247651 AND 247652

1. IN GENERAL, TONE AND CONTENT OF DRAFT ARRIVAL AND AFTER-DINNER STATEMENTS CONTAINED REFTELS STRIKE RIGHT NOTES AND COVER MOST POINTS WHICH EMBASSY BELIEVES DESERVE EMPHASIS. KOREANS ANTICIPATE ARRIVAL STATEMENT OF 3 TO 5 MINUTES DURATION (NOT INCLUDING INTERPRETATION) AND AFTER-DINNER STATEMENT OF 5 TO 6 MINUTES. TO SHORTEN DEPARTURE CEREMONY, KOREANS ARE NOT PLANNING ON DEPARTURE STATEMENT BY EITHER PRESIDENT.

2. WE HAVE NO SPECIFIC SUBSTANTIVE SUGGESTIONS TO OFFER FOR ARRIVAL STATEMENT. SINCE CEREMONY WILL ATTRACT NATIONWIDE AUDIENCE, SUGGEST AS PERSONAL TOUCH INCLUSION OF REGRET THAT MRS. FORD WAS UNABLE TO SHARE WARM WELCOME AND GENEROUS HOSPITALITY OF KOREAN PEOPLE. STATEMENT ALSO REQUIRES SIMPLE SALUTATION, RECOGNIZING PRESENCE OF PRESIDENT PARK AND DISTINGUISHED REPRESENTATIVES OF KOREAN GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE. OTHERWISE, STATEMENT APPEARS

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TO SOUND RIGHT CHORD IN PLACING VISIT AND BILATERAL

US/KOREAN RELATIONSHIP IN GENERAL ASIAN CONTEXT.

3. AFTER-DINNER STATEMENT WILL BE MAJOR OPPORTUNITY FOR PRESIDENT TO MAKE SIGNIFICANT POINTS AND WILL PROBABLY DRAW HEAVY PLAY FROM DOMESTIC PRESS AND OTHER MEDIA MORNING NOV 23. BELIEVE CURRENT KOREAN CONCERNS ABOUT RELATIONSHIP WITH US AND CURRENT ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES COULD BE ALLAYED BY CONFIDENCE-BUILDING REFERENCES TO:

(A) US DETERMINATION TO CONTINUE PLAYING STRONG ROLE IN ASIA TO HELP PROMOTE STABILITY AND GROWTH THROUGHOUT REGION;

(B) BASIC STRENGTH OF US SOCIETY AND HEALTH OF ITS ECONOMY;

(C) WORLD-WIDE ECONOMIC PROBLEMS AND US DETERMINATION TO HELP SOLVE THEM IN MANNER EQUITABLE TO ALL; AND

(D) RECOGNITION THAT THESE PROBLEMS AFFECT TRANSITIONAL ECONOMIES SUCH AS KOREA'S AND NEED FOR INCREASED INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION WHICH WILL REFLECT THE NEEDS OF ALL ECONOMIES.

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